

*Mrs. Ella Jean Shields Houser* entered eternal rest in the early morning hours on Friday, July 2, 2021. She was born in Americus, Georgia on May 24, 1932, to the parentage of the late Mr. Frank Shields and the late Mrs. Isabelle “Belle” Blue Shields. She was the second child and first daughter born to this union. Ella was named after her maternal grandmother, Ella Blue and her first cousin, Emma Jean Minter “nee Chambliss”.

Ella Jean was educated in the public schools in Americus, Georgia. She was joined in marriage to Mr. Roosevelt Shoots, Sr., producing one son, Roosevelt Shoots, Jr. During the late 50s, she migrated with her son to Hartford, Connecticut, where she lived many years before relocating to Bridgeport, Connecticut. While living in Connecticut, she pursued opportunities in nursing and cosmetology.

In the late 60s, she returned to Americus, Georgia to care for her ailing mother. When her mother’s health improved, she moved back to Bridgeport, Connecticut for a few years, but then returned to Americus, Georgia, where she remained until her death. Over the next 30 years, she worked as a housekeeper for Sumter Regional Hospital, Staley Junior High School, Dr. David Campbell, Bishop Melvin McCluster, and the late Dr. John Marshall. During this time, she was a member of Friendship Missionary Baptist Church and later, Campbell Chapel A. M. E. Church. She also studied for some time at the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah’s Witnesses.

In 1994, at the tender age of 62, Ella Jean married the late Mr. Johnnie B. Houser, III whom she called the love of her life. They were together until his death in 1998.

Ella Jean, lovingly called “Miss Ella” by some and “Jean” by others, was also preceded in death by her son, Roosevelt Shoots, Jr.; three brothers: Frank Shields, Collins Shields, and Nathaniel Shields; one granddaughter, Stacy Shields; special friends: George Small, and Pat Johnson, Jr.

She leaves to cherish her memory one sister, Ms. Jennie Fuller of Bridgeport, Connecticut; her niece and caregiver, Ms. Ann Fuller; her granddaughter and caregiver, Ms. Connie Walters, both of Americus Georgia; her grandchildren: Mr. Derrick Shields, Americus, Georgia; Ms. Robin Stone of Duluth, Georgia; Mr. Dale Robinson, Ellenwood, Georgia; Ms. Lillian Coleman, Albany, Georgia and Mr. Willie Robinson, Riverdale, Georgia; her first cousin, Ms. Emma Jean Minter of Ellaville, Georgia; and a host of great grandchildren, great-great grandchildren, nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends. A special thank you is extended to her caregivers: Linda Aldridge, Sonya Tyson and the Phoebe Hospice nurses, and to Rev. Lodenia Coleman